Schemes for Panchayati Raj Institutions

† *416. SHRI LAXMINARAYAN SHARMA: Will the Minister of PANCHAYATI RAJ be pleased to state:

(a) the details of awareness and training schemes run by Government for representatives of Panchayati Raj Institutions and members of Standing Committees of Gram Sabha;

(b) the ratio of the share of Central and State Government in the funding of the scheme;

(c) whether Government are considering to increase their share; and

(d) if so, by when a decision will be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF PANCHAYATI RAJ (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) and (b) A Centrally Sponsored Scheme "Panchayat Development and Training" is being implemented by the Government for imparting training to the elected representatives of Panchayati Raj Institutions and other Rural Development functionaries. Under this scheme, Central assistance is provided to the States, NGQs and other institutions for the above purpose. As per the funding pattern under the scheme, the total approved cost of proposals received from the State Governments for implementation of this scheme is shared in the ratio of 75:25 between Central and State Government. Besides, 20% increase in the cost per participant over and above the standard norms is allowed while estimating the total cost of proposals from North-Eastern States and Hilly areas of the country. 100% Central assistance is provided to NGOs for implementing this scheme.

(c) The Government is not considering increasing its share.

(d) Does not arise.

Action plan for irrigation schemes in Orissa

*417. MS. PRAMILA BOHIDAR: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that Orissa is a drought-prone area;

(b) whether Government are also aware that the cash-strapped State is not in a position to upgrade its irrigation schemes to help the farmers of the drought-prone areas;

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(c) if so, whether the Central Government have drawn up some action plan to help the State to upgrade its irrigation facilities and for optimum utilization of its available water resources; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI PRIYARANJAN DASMUNSI): (a) Yes, Sir. As per Ministry of Rural Development, an area of 26,178 Sq. Km. in 8 districts covering 47 Blocks in Orissa is covered under Drought Prone Area Programme (DPAP).

(b) to (d) Water being a State subject, all water resources schemes including the schemes meant for drought proofing of drought prone areas in the country are planned, formulated, implemented and funded by the respective State Governments out of their own resources and as per their own priorities. However, with an objective to accelerate the implementation of those projects which are beyond resource capability of the States or are in advanced stage of completion, Central Government launched an Accelerated Irrigation Benefits Programme (AIBP) during 1996-97 to provide Central Loan Assistance (CLA) on matching basis to major/medium projects in the country. Priorities are given to those projects which are benefiting Tribal and Drought Prone Areas. Since 1999-2000, CLA has been provided in the ratio of 3:1 (Centre : State) to Special Category States including KBK Districts of Orissa *i.e.* Kalahandi, Bolangir, Naupada and Sonepur, and in the ratio of 2:1 (Centre : State) for the projects in rest of the Orissa State.

With effect from February 2002, AIBP has been linked to economic eforms in the irrigation sector and the guidelines have been modified accordingly. Since then CLA is being provided to the Reforming States under General Category in the ratio of 4:1 (Centre : State) and in the ratio of 1:0) (Centre: State) under special category including KBK Districts of Orissa, in case they rationalize their water rates in such a way as to recover full O & M cost of irrigation projects in 5 years. The State of Orissa have been included under the Category of Reforming States.

So far CLA amounting to Rs. 898.250 crore has been released to Government of Orissa. In all, 17 major/medium and 23 Surface Minor Irrigation (MI) Schemes of Orissa have received CLA under AIBP. Out of the 17 major/medium irrigation projects, 8 projects are in KBK Districts. These 8 projects and 23 Surface Water MI Schemes have received CLAof

Rs. 487.340 crore. The Planning Commission has fixed the CLA ceiling of Rs. 150.00 crore under AIBP during 2004-2005 for Orissa. However, releases during the current year would be made on receipt of proposals from the State Government through Central Water Commission.

In order to bridge the gap between potential created and that utilized through infrastructural development under outlet commands and taking up innovative water management practices, a Centrally Sponsored Command Area Development (CAD) Programme (now restructured & renamed as Command Area Development And Water Management (CADWM) Programme *w.e.f.* 1st April, 2004) was launched in Orissa during the year 1974-75. Three projects namely Upper Kolab, Potteru and Hirakud serving drought prone KBK Districts are covered under this programme. Central Assistance released to the State under this programme upto 2003-04 was Rs. 82.1079 crores.

Department of Land Resources, under Ministry of Rural Development is implementing Drought Prone Area Programme (DPAP) in Orissa on Watershed basis with the objective of drought proofing and rejuvenating the natural resource base by taking activities of soil-moisture conservation, water resource development, afforestation, pasture development etc. The eight districts covered under this programme are Bargarh, Bolangir, Boudh, Dhenkanal, Kalahandi, Naupada, Phulbani and Sonepur. So far 830 projects have been sanctioned to the State Government of Orissa. An amount of 46.82 crore has been released to the State for implementation of these projects since 1995-96 as Central grant to treat an area of 4.15 lakh hectares.

Difficulties of urban co-operative banks in A.P.

*418. SHRI S. M. LALJAN BASHA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the RBI has been alert to failing urban co-operative banks in Andhra Pradesh;

(b) to what extent the RBI has alerted its regional office to carefully study trends of prospective difficulties of such banks;

(c) whether it is a fact that many such banks have approached the RBI for help;

(d) if so, the details of such requests; and